

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Since the Informational Notice was sent out on August 3, the CDHS OERU mailbox has received inquiries.

LETTER OF INTENT

Question: Should Level 2 counties submit the Letter of Intent?

Answer: Yes. The Letter of Intent is not a binding document. It only serves as an indication of the number of counties interested in participating in the county allocation program.

Question: Can the Health and Social Services Director submit the letter, or must it come from the Board of Supervisors?

Answer: The non-binding Letter of Intent must be signed by the county government agency responsible for OERU activities.

Question: Is the Letter of Intent mandatory?

Response: Yes, the Letter of Intent is mandatory. However, it is a non-binding document. CDHS requests counties to submit the Letter or Intent in order to assess the number of counties that will most likely participate in the allocation program.

Question: Is there a date when you will no longer accept letters of intent and/or county plans and budgets?

Response: CDHS' goal is to receive letters of intent as soon as possible. CDHS will accept Level 1 and Level 2 counties' plans and budgets beginning September 8. Level 1 counties must inform CDHS of their intention to participate by October 9th or else CDHS will begin redistributing funds to other Level 1 or Level 2 counties. CDHS must receive all Level 2 county plans by October 9. CDHS then must evaluate and approve the plan and budget to authorize the county's funding. No OERU activities will be funded by the county allocation program prior to the date the county receives CDHS' approval.

CITY HEALTH JURISDICTIONS

Question: As one of three city health jurisdictions in the state, I would like to know if CDHS will be providing any guidance to counties regarding allocation of some portion (relative to population size) of the OERU allocation to City health jurisdictions within the county borders.

Answer: CDHS has authority to allocate funds to counties. CDHS encourages a city health jurisdiction to partner with the respective county to provide OERU activities to the

Medi-Cal and Healthy Families eligible but unenrolled children in the city. The county can enter into an agreement with the city health jurisdiction for OERU services and include it in the Plan and Budget submitted to the State.

Question: Does the "ongoing annual allocation" figure (\$26,685,000) provided in the Attachment 1 of the Information Notice refer to funding for FY 07-08 and FY 08-09?

Response: Yes, \$26,685,000 is the funding amount for Level 1 counties for FY 07-08 and FY 08-09, pending approval of the annual state budget.

Question: Will eligible applicants need to reapply each year to receive continued funding?

Response: No, both Level 1 and Level 2 counties are entering into a three-year partnership with the State. Initially, counties will submit a three-year plan and budget. All counties may be requested to update the plan and budget in the second or third years in the event of a change in the annual appropriation.

FUNDING

Question: Are matching funds required for this program?

Response: No. The funds counties receive through the county allocation program include total funds, State general funds and federal financial participation. However, counties cannot use the county allocations to supplant existing funding for children's coverage activities.

Question: What are some examples of allowable uses of funds?

Response: The draft Request for Plan and Budget (RFPB), dated August 10, 2006, available at www.dhs.ca.gov/OERU outlines examples of allowable uses of funds for outreach, enrollment, retention and utilization (OERU) activities targeting children eligible for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families.

Question: Is there anything funds cannot be used for?

Response: The funds must be used for OERU activities targeting children eligible for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. For example, funds cannot be used to pay for Healthy Kids premiums or any other county agency function unrelated to children's OERU activities or for any acquisitions that are not allowed under federal law.

Question: Under what circumstances, if any, might a county receive more funding than it is entitled to under its annual allocation?

Response: CDHS does not expect this to occur; however, a county may receive more funding than currently designated in the draft Request for Plan and Budget, dated

August 10, 2006, if a level 1 County chooses not to participate and CDHS redistributes funds to other Level 1 or Level 2 counties.

Please check back periodically for updated County Allocation Program information posted on the CDHS website: www.dhs.ca.gov/OERU